**Opinion Writing Pre and Post Assessment Suggestion**

**Before you begin** this unit, please ask your students to do some opinion writing to gather some baseline data. The intention is to collect a piece of writing from your students to see what knowledge of this genre they bring to this study. You can then use these samples to guide your teaching during the unit.

You might say something like this to invite students to write:

* *Think about something you care about or have an opinion about: something you like or don’t like, something that you think is fair or not fair, an issue around which you have strong feelings. Today you will have a whole writing workshop to write about your opinion. When you do this, name your opinion (what you think). Give reasons and evidence to explain why you have that opinion, and write an ending. Think about everything you know about writing persuasive letters and reviews.*

On a large piece of chart paper, write:

* *In your writing, make sure you:*
  + *Name your opinion.*
  + *Give reasons and evidence to explain why you have that opinion.*
  + *Write an ending.*

Refer students to the chart. The students should then write on blank, lined paper, such as the paper they will use during their daily writing workshops.

The goal is not to have a class set of well-written opinions. Some students may write in a different genre, with which they may be more familiar. Some may write well-developed opinion pieces. The point of this pre-assessment is to see what students do in response to this prompt so that we know what to teach.

**You will pose the same prompt to students at the end of the unit to document progress.**